

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 DJIBOU 00022 101015Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /079 W  
-----104633 101021Z /21

P R 100810Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 536  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L DJIBOUTI 0022

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDIP, PINS, ET, SO, ET, US, DJ  
SUBJ: EGYPTIANS CONCERNS RE DJIBOUTI SITUATION

REF: A. 77 CAIRO 23100, 77 DJIBOUTI 0753

1. EGYPTIANS MFA UNDERSECRETARY AHMED OSMAN PROVIDED A NEEDED STIMULU  
S  
FOR CONSTRUCTIVE ACTIONS TO BRIDGE THE WIDENING GAP BETWEEN THE ETHNI  
C  
GROUPS IN DJIBOUTI, DURING HIS BRIEF VISIT TO DJIBUTI 3-6 JAN  
78. OBVIOUSLY A MAN WITH GREATER INTERESTS ELSEWHERE, HE  
WAS ONLY SUPERFICIALLY INFORMED ABOUT THE DETAILS OF THE DJIBOUTI  
SITUATION. PERHAPS AS A RESULT OF THIS, HIS PERSONAL MANNER OF DEALIN  
G  
WITH THE PROBLEMS WAS USUALLY AS DIRECT AS A KICK IN THE SEAT. NOT  
PARTICULARLY BEING A TARGET FOR HIS APPROACH (AT LEAST ON THIS  
OCCASION, ALTHOUGH I AM CERTAIN THAT HE HAS GIVEN US A FAIR SHARE OF  
CLOUDS), IT WAS RATHER REFRESHING TO SEE HIM AT WORK. CHARGE HAD  
SEVERAL OCCASIONS TO DISCUSS MATTERS WITH THE UNDERSECRETARY.  
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2. AHMED OSMAN REPORTED THAT IN HIS MEETINGS WITH THE DJIBOUTI  
PRESIDENT AND OTHER TOP OFFICIALS HE WAS DIRECT AND TO THE POINT:  
IF DJIBOUTI IS TO SURVIVE, THE RIVALRIES BETWEEN THE AFARS AND THE  
ISSAS (SOMALIS) MUST BE ELIMINATED. HE RECOMMENDED THAT AHMED  
DINI, FORMER P.M., BE RETURNED TO GOVT STRUCTURE.  
ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT SEE AHMED DINI PERSONALLY, HE SENT HIS OFFICE

DIRECTOR TO INTERVIEW HIM WITH THE VIEW OF FACILITATING A RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND DINI. THE EGYPTIAN UNDERSECRETARY DEMONSTRATED HIS EVENHANDEDNESS IN DEALINGS WITH THE ETHIOPIAN AND SOMALI MISSION CHIEFS IN DJIBOUTI BY INSULTING THE FORMER AND PUTTING THE LATTER ON GUARD. AS WITNESS TO BOTH OF THE LATTER ALTERCATIONS, THE CHARGE (WHO IS NOT AN ARABIC SPEAKER AND THEREFORE WAS CONSIDERED SOMEWHAT OF A HARMLESS OBSERVER), FOUND IT OBVIOUS THAT AHMED OSMAN RATHER LIKES TO SHOOT FROM THE HP. HE TOLD THE ETHIOPIAN CHARGE THAT HIS GOVT SHOULD SEND A PROFESSIONAL AND INTELLIGENT AMBASSADOR TO REPORT ON THE LOCAL SITUATION. HE TOLD THE SOMALI AMBASSADOR THAT HIS GOVT SHOULD STOP INTERFERING WITH LOCAL POLITICAL PROCESSES AND GENERALLY LET UP ON THE PRESSURE. THE LATTER MESSAGE WAS DELIVERED WHILE THE CHARGE WAS SEATED BETWEEN THE TWO DISCUSSANTS AT A LUNCHEON AT THE EGYPTIANS EMBASSY. BOTH THE ETHIOPIAN AND THE SOMALI REPRESENTATIVES, IN LATER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CHARGE, DID NOT APPEAR OVERLY UPSET ABOUT THE LESSONS RECEIVED.

3. UNDERSECRETARY OSMAN APPEARED GENUINELY PLEASED WITH OUR POSITION TAKEN ON THE HORN IN GENERAL AND DJIBOUTI IN PARTICULAR.

DISCUSSING THE DEMARCHE PRESENTED BY POLCOUNS ON DEC 27 IN CAIRO, HE SAID THAT IT WAS THE FIRST TIME IN 30 YEARS THAT HE FULLY AGREED WITH A U.S. DIPLOMATIC EFFORT. IN DISCUSSING WITH HIM THE APPROACH BEING TAKEN LOCALLY BY THE EMBASSY TO ALLEVIATE THE SITUATION, HE ALSO INDICATED FULL AGREEMENT.

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4. IN THE CURRENT CRISIS, THE CHARGE HAS MET WITH THE PRESIDENT, THE FONMIN (ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS) AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT PLAYERS. OUR MESSAGE HAS BEEN UNIFORM: DJIBOUTI MUST HAVE DOMESTIC PEACE TO SURVIVE; THE AFAR ELEMENTS IN THE POPULATION MUST BE INVOLVED IN THE PROCESSES OF GOVT; THE STRUCTURES CREATED FOLLOWING INDEPENDENCE WERE NOT ADEQUATE TO CONVINCE THE AFARS OF THEIR PLACE IN AN INDEPENDENT DJIBOUTI. THE EMBASSY HAS RESISTED ALL EFFORTS TO MAKE IT APPEAR TO FAVOR ONE GROUP OVER THE OTHER. IN OUR DISCUSSIONS WE HAVE AVOIDING NAMING NAMES; THE DJIBOUTIANS THEMSELVES MUST DECIDE WHAT IS NEEDED TO MAKE THEIR UNION WORK. WE HAVE POINTED OUT HOW CERTAIN PROGRAMS NOW BEING DEVELOPED TO ASSIST DJIBOUTI (AN AGRICULTURAL PROJECT, PL 480 TITLE II AND III EFFORTS) CAN BE USED TO BENEFIT GROUPS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ETHNIC LINES. WE HAVE INSISTED THAT OUR PROGRAMS ARE TRULY CONTINGENT UPON SATISFACTORY DISTRIBUTION OF BENEFITS TO BOTH AFARS AND SOMALIS.

5. THIS POST WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FEEDBACK FROM THE EGYPTIANS UNDERSECRETARY ON HIS VISIT TO DJIBOUTI. ALTHOUGH HE SAID THAT HE HOPED THAT HE WOULD NEVER BE OBLIGED TO RETURN TO DJIBOUTI, I FEEL CERTAIN THAT HIS TRIP WAS BENEFICIAL BOTH FOR THE SHOCK EFFECT ON LOCAL POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC FIGURES AND FOR THE CREATION OF MORE UNDERSTANDING AND INTEREST FROM THE EGYPTIANS.

CLARKE

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## Message Attributes

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